Weather Vane

Which direction is the wind blowing from? Find out when you create your very own weather vane!

Kit contains:

- Straw
- Pencil
- Paper plate
- Straight pin
- Shape template

You will need: scissors and tape.

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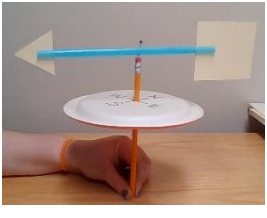
INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Write one of the cardinal directions (North, East, South, West) by each line on the paper plate. You can also decorate your plate.

Step 2. Push the pencil through the circle in the middle of the paper plate (You may need to use scissors. Get a grownup's help if needed!). You may need to use some tape to secure the pencil.

Step 3. Cut out the triangle and square shapes.

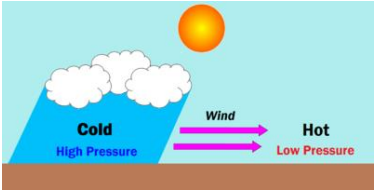
Step 4. Place these shapes in the notches at each end of the straw. If they don't stay in, use a little bit of tape.



Step 5. Put the straight pin through the middle of the straw and into the pencil's eraser. Make sure the straw can spin freely.

On a windy day, you can use your weather vane outside. Hold the weather vane by the pencil under the plate or put it in the ground or pot of soil. Make sure north on your weather vane is pointing north. If needed, use a compass or ask a grownup. (Hint: The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.) The arrow will spin and point to the direction the wind is blowing from!!!

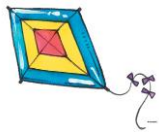
WHAT'S GOING ON?



Wind is air that's moving. Air moves from areas of high pressure to areas of low pressure, usually from cooler areas to warmer areas. But there are a lot of things than can affect the wind: Earth's rotation, weather patterns, the Sun and more. Wind can go from a light breeze to a damaging tornado. People use the wind to move boats, fly kites, even to make electricity by using wind turbines.

(Source: https://youtu.be/RzSqhrn2dDM)

Weather vanes have been used for over 2000 years! The oldest recorded weather vane is from Ancient Greece in the first century B.C.E. Knowing which direction the wind is coming from can be helpful for lots of reasons! North winds are usually cool, south winds are usually warm. If you're flying a kite, or playing with a Frisbee, it's helpful to know which direction the wind is blowing from! Pilots of airplanes and sailors on sail boats need to know the wind direction so they can travel safely.



Some Books to Read About Wind...

- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba
- *It's Windy Today* by Kristin Sterling
- *How Does the Wind Blow?* By Patricia Murphy

Look for the weather vane on top of the library next time you come to visit!